





We observe from a contribution signed 'J. S. B.', published in the *Calcutta Observer* of the 7th instant, that the passengers of board the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Brindisi*, among whom were a number of well-known Hongkongites, spent apparently a most enjoyable Christmas week. On the 23rd Dec., a concert was held on the quarter-deck, in which Mr. J. S. Brower, whom we suspect as the author of the contribution to the *Observer*, and Mr. E. George both took a part, the former assisting in two duets and singing 'The Cruise of the Caliph,' and the latter singing the 'Village Blacksmith.' Lotteries, choral services, athletic sports (arranged by Captain Lang, R.N., and Mr. Swinley), a theatrical performance and dancing, were among the other amusements.

As another instance of the audacity exhibited by the criminal classes in the Colony just now in their attempt to raise funds for the coming New Year, we may cite an attempt made on Wednesday evening last to rob Mr. J. Melville Merton of his watch and chain. Between half-past five, as the gentleman was walking home in the neighbourhood of the Tanks, below Edwidgeon on the Caine Road, a Chinaman jostled him, and snatched at his watch chain. Mr. Merton followed the thief so far as he could but he soon disappeared amongst the crowd of small Chinese houses below the Tanks. Being quite dusk Mr. Merton was unable to see the man's face, therefore unable to identify him. After giving up the chase he found that the rascal had broken off a small portion of his chain, to which was attached a gold locket and gold pencil case. The master has been reported to the police and they are doing all they can to recover the property, but we fear it has long since found its way into the melting pot.

We have to acknowledge receipt of *The Hongkong Almanack*, for 1886, compiled by Mr. Bruce Shepherd, clerk of deed registry of the Supreme Court, and printed and published by Messrs Kelly and Walsh, Ltd. This work has now reached its third volume, and the one before us shows an improvement on its predecessors both in size and quality. The astronomical and meteorological tables have been extended, new tide tables and tidal information are given and among the entirely fresh information are vital, educational, judicial, and police statistics, evidently compiled from the official reports; statistics relating to taxation, Chinese immigration and emigration, and a highly interesting short account and statistics of the leased lands in the Colony. A map of Hongkong, showing the roads of the Colony, has also been inserted in the work. The Almanack also contains an accurate description of Hongkong and the City of Victoria, a list of the civil, judicial, military and naval establishments, a postal guide, seamen's wages and income tax, and other information of a local nature. Altogether the work is a very handy reference book, and gives in a collected form information which it would take those desirous of obtaining it some considerable time to hunt up. The book is well printed, though not altogether free from printer's errors.

*Junko-kai* has been delivered in the enquiry into the loss of the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Indus*, wrecked in attempting to extricate her from a shoal off Malatiwo on the north-east coast of Ceylon, on the 9th November last, while on a voyage to Colombo from Madras. The judgment was pronounced by Mr. Berwick, the District Judge of Colombo, and we learn from our Ceylon contemporaries that the Court found Captain Breeze, the commander, to blame in having failed to verify his distance from the land by promptly taking soundings as soon as land was discovered, and in shaping an imprudent course from Madras; and suspended his certificate for twelve months. Speaking of the judgment the *Ceylon Times* says:—'We do not think anyone will consider Judge Berwick's decision in this case harsh. One statement however in his judgment deserves to be noted. Mr. Berwick recalls the fact that he had had three cases of total wrecks before him lately in each of which the master of the vessel, finding himself in the morning unexpectedly close to land misjudged his distance from it by calculation of the sun.' The district Judge also calls attention to the non-existence of a chart on board the *Indus* on a larger scale than the one apparently in use, though he lays no blame on Captain Breeze for this. We sympathise with the latter in his unfortunate position, but we do not think he has been harshly treated.'

*The Zarzuela Spanish Opera Company*, whose visit to Hongkong has been a most unfortunate financial loss, gave a farewell performance in the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening. The audience was not a large one, but it was probably large enough to allow the Company to pay the expenses of the evening and leave a small surplus. We are really sorry that the Company have not been better appreciated, as the leading members undoubtedly possess a considerable amount of dramatic ability, and act in concert with much success. Vocally they do not rank very high, but they possess sufficient talent to treat the music most skilfully by them in a fairly successful manner, and if the pieces selected for representation had been played in English we have no doubt the company would have at least covered their expenses. Saturday's performance was similar to those given previously by the Company, and was carried

through with a spirit and go which from time to time elicited demonstrative applause. Signor Ragnor's acting and singing being particularly applauded. The orchestra performed several pleasing selections under the leadership of Maestro Cesario. We trust when the Company go back to Manila they will soon recoup the loss sustained by their visit to Hongkong.

The following is the programme of the next People's Concert to be given on Thursday evening:—

1. Overture..... Scotch Air..... Flute & Violin.  
2. Song..... There was a lad was born..... Mr. W. Webb.  
3. Comic Song..... Mr. J. M. Brindisi.  
4. Selection..... From Scott's 'Lady of the Lake'..... Mr. Jas. Logan.  
5. Story..... The Devil's Drums..... Mr. A. Duguid.  
6. Ballad..... 'Annie Laurie'..... Mr. A. W. Scott.  
7. Humorous Song..... The Keel Row'..... Mr. W. Scott.  
8. Violin Solo..... (With variations)..... Mr. J. D. Woodford.  
9. Duet..... 'Ye Banks and Braes'..... Mr. Moore, Watt & Quigley.  
10. Valse..... 'Scots Brlasses'..... Miss Elizabeth Kennedy.  
11. Trio..... 'There is a Lad'..... Messrs. Webb, Duguid & Quigley.  
12. Comic Solo..... (With variations)..... Mr. Jas. Logan.  
13. Recitation..... Tom O'Shaughnessy..... Mr. W. Webb.  
14. Recitation..... The Magician's Gathering..... Mr. Jas. Logan.  
15. Sword Dance..... Mr. Jas. Logan.  
16. Ballad..... 'The Lassie'..... Mr. Angus Mann.  
17. Song..... Behave yourself..... Mr. W. Scott.  
18. Auld Lang Syne..... By the Company.

The Russian man-of-war *Oruzherie*, Commander A. Ostrokov, left Amoy for Hongkong on the 20th instant.

The *Nagasaki Express* notes the arrival at that port of *Mino Maru* of Capt. F. W. Schulze, late Harbour-master at Tschuchow, and acting Coast Inspector, in the Corian Customs. His post has, for the present, been abolished by the new Chief Commissioner for economical reasons. In Fusan, a similar position has also been abolished for the same reason.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the N.C.D. News from Kalgan:—'This town, which is situated at an important pass on the borders of Mongolia, may be regarded as the Botany Bay of China; for Chinese officials, when degraded, are banished here for three years. There are over a dozen here at the present moment; among them, Captain Li Wuching, commonly called Li Boozi or Lo Hsien. This officer speaks English, having spent some time in Scotland thirty years ago. He states that his was the only gun-boat out of a fleet of eleven that escaped destruction at the hands of the French during the encounter at Papoda Anchorage. The weather, which has been mild thus far, has become severer. The thermometer sometimes falls to 15° below zero.'

The Shanghai *Mercury* says a fourth attempt is at present being made to raise the *Chinchin*, one of the Chinese men-of-war scuttled in Shiepo Roads early last year whether they had fled for safety from the French. Very favourable results are not expected. Our contemporary says:—'There is an eight-knot current running where these ships are sunk, and the water is so thick and muddy that hundreds of tons of mud have become deposited within the vessel. Moreover, she is settling bodily into the mud, at an angle of about 50°; at low water part of her forecastle-head is visible. All the gun, however, some twenty-five in number, have been recovered. The *Chinchin* was not struck by a torpedo; she was scuttled, and her bottom is as intact as on the day she was launched. There will probably be no attempt made to raise the other sunken warship.'

WARNING from Chemulpo on the 7th Jan., the correspondent of the *Nagasaki Express*, says:—'Within the past few days, it has become publicly known that Messrs Meyer & Co., who have a branch of their business at this port, have negotiated a loan for the Korean Government, and printed and published by Messrs Kelly and Walsh, Ltd. This work has now reached its third volume, and may be regarded as the Botany Bay of China; for Chinese officials, when degraded, are banished here for three years. There are over a dozen here at the present moment; among them, Captain Li Wuching, commonly called Li Boozi or Lo Hsien. This officer speaks English, having spent some time in Scotland thirty years ago. He states that his was the only gun-boat out of a fleet of eleven that escaped destruction at the hands of the French during the encounter at Papoda Anchorage. The weather, which has been mild thus far, has become severer. The thermometer sometimes falls to 15° below zero.'

GENERAL DE COURY'S VIEWS ON TONQUIN.

General de Coury, late Commander-in-Chief of the French forces in Tonquin, arrived here from Haiphong on Saturday evening in the French steamer *Nomvian* and will leave here for Home by the M. M. Co.'s steamer *Yangtze* to-morrow. If the gallant General still holds the view he seemed to have entertained about the middle of last summer, he will no doubt be heartily glad to get rid of what he evidently considers a hopeless and unremunerative task, viz. the complete pacification of Tonquin. According to home papers received yesterday, despatches were read to the Committee appointed to enquire into the affairs of Tonquin from General de Coury demonstrating that even the present Commander-in-Chief of the expeditionary force and French political agent at Hue despaired of even pacifying Tong-King and making it a productive colony. The first of those despatches bears date July 21, 1855, and says:—'Though progress has been made with the occupation of Tong-King, it must nevertheless be regarded as having to be accomplished by very difficult to achieve in the present, and its results as always uncertain in the future. By a disease in the Patenôtre Treaty of Peace with China we have undertaken to establish and insure order along the whole length of the frontier which separates us from China. To achieve this we shall have great difficulties to surmount, and greater still to maintain our position on that frontier. We shall, therefore, at those points always have a dangerous sword hanging over our heads. What I now propose is to make very bold and very unexpected attacks on the *Amur*, or rather that portion of it which we possess, and to take *Amur* by a subsequent despatch from General de Coury, dated August 23, even more eloquent. It says:—'In seeking to conquer and occupy the geocentric points of Tong-King—such as Lang-Son, Thatche, Kao-hang, Yen-yan, &c.—we have thrown away enormous sums of money, been lavish with French blood, and have seriously compromised the health of our troops. To prosecute this system and to push forward to Iao-ki—under pretext of opening up that notorious road to China by which nothing had ever penetrated into that country, and up and down which nothing will ever pass, would be to commit a mortal sin, which would be all the more painful and unpardonable after the terrible lesson given us by recent experience. The really productive regions of Tong-King do not extend beyond the points at which the rivers cease to be navigable for our light gunboats. Beyond that there is nothing, for I do not reckon the mineral wealth, which, I fear, only exists in the two fertile imaginations of certain explorers.'

#### TOTAL LOSS OF THE S. S. 'CORINTH'

A telegram was received from Amoy on Saturday afternoon by Messrs Russell & Co., the agents, to the effect that the Union Line's a. *Corinth* and H. M. S. *Brindisi* (Lieut.-Com. D. L. Dickson) had been in collision between Amoy and Formosa, and that the *Corinth* had been sunk. No lives were lost, and the crew of the *Corinth*, who had been taken to Amoy by the *Brindisi*, would come on to this port by the S. S. *Douglas*.

The *Corinth* was a fine double funnel steamer of 1600 registered and 2600 gross tonnage, built in 1880 at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and owned by Messrs Nelson, Doukin & Co. She arrived here from England on the 15th December and left on the 16th for Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki, and when the collision occurred must have been on her way from the latter port with a cargo of coal for Hongkong. She was under the command of Captain Anderson, H. M. S. *Brindisi* was in Amoy on the 20th, and the officers of the ship were, we

learn from the *Amoy Gazette*, to give a performance there on the 21st. It is probable therefore that she left Amoy for Formosa on the 22nd and that the collision occurred the same day or night.

#### INTER-REGIMENTAL SHOOTING COMPETITION.

On Saturday last the 8th (Northumbrianshire) Regiment went through their firing at the 200, 500 and 600 yards range at Kowloon, for the Inter-Regimental rifle competition open to all battalions of the British army at home and in the colonies. Each battalion selects a team of ten competitors, of which only the best eight score.

are reckoned. The targets used are the new army targets, which consist of three plates, on each of which is drawn the figure of a man, joined together. The bull's-eye, at 500 and 600 yards is 24 inches in diameter, and the lines for 'inners' are invisible. Bull's-eyes count five and 'inners' four, and as the conditions allow seven shots at each range, the highest possible is thus 105 points at the three ranges.

The score made by the 8th on Saturday displayed some first-class shooting and gives, we hear, the highest average for this year, of any Regiment in the service at home or abroad yet published. The winning team at home, 42nd Highlanders, made a total at these ranges of 678 points, or an average of 84.75. The best individual score was made by Sergeant-Major Shipler, with 97 points. As will be seen by the scores below, Lieut. Pritchard, of the 8th, has approached within three of this top score.

We understand that last year the 8th came out in this competition first for the Colonies and third on the list for Hongkong and Colombo. Major Churchill then made the highest individual score amongst the officers and Col. Sergeant McClure among the Non-Commissioned officers and men. The latter was amongst the ten who competed on Saturday, but though recognised as the best shot in the regiment at the old targets he has not been able to sustain his reputation at the new ones.

The Battalion have still to compete in the volley-firing match and the long-distance shooting, at 800 and 900 yards.

During the firing on Saturday Major Dempster, A. P. D. (28th Regt.) and Captain Porter, A. D. C. to H. E. the Administrator, acted as umpires. The following are the scores made, which are highly flattering to the gallant Northumbrianshire.

Names.	200	500	600	yards yards total.
Lieut. Pritchard	28	34	32	94
Cohr. Sgt. Phillips	28	30	36	94
Do. Kendrik	27	31	28	86
Do. Delaney	30	30	26	86
Private Sykes	27	32	28	85
Sergt. Fricker	28	31	26	84
Sergt. Lowrie	30	27	26	83
Drummer Bellamy	26	29	26	81
Total.....	224	242	219	685
Average 28.00	30.25	27.37	25.82	

Yours faithfully,  
Geo. H. BARTELL WRIGHT.

P.S.—It may interest the curious to learn Class IV. 2nd prize was not a school 'Grammar and History,' but 'Green's Shorter History of the English People.'

7 a.m. this morning. Shortly afterwards they put in an appearance, and reported having been waylaid, assaulted, and plundered, near Yen-mat, by 5 men armed with knives and revolvers. Some resistance appears to have been offered, more especially by one of the coolies, who was wearing a nasty stab in the leg, convinced this gentleman of the folly of resistance and he reluctantly parted with the articles of apparel. The robbers then took away the carrying bamboo, ransacked the little baggage, plundered the clothes of the clothing, &c., and took these articles bearing the P. & O. Company's badge, and so on. The Police at Yen-mat were communicated with in due course, and I hear that one of the coolies has since been arrested, with arms in his possession, after a short skirmish.

Advice from Pugoo, dated 28th December, states that 60 rebels burst the houses at Yen-mat, on the night previous. Mr. Hume, Superintendent of Police, proceeded to the scene of the trouble, and I hear that one of the coolies has since been arrested, with arms in his possession, after a short skirmish. The wounded coolie is still continuing to recover.

THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL SCHOOL PRIZE LIST.

(To the Editor of the 'China Mail').

25th Jan., 1886.

Sir.—May I trouble you once more this year with a notice of correction in the Prize List of the Central School. To avoid the oversight of last year when the names of two or three children were overlooked, I took the trouble this year to draw up the Prize List myself and carefully inserted all the names received by the various classes. You will judge from my answer to the finding that through some carelessness on my part, the names of two children were omitted. I was otherwise engaged, the Prize List was despatched with the announcement that the Government had presented the special prizes for competition in Classes I. & II. instead of Mr. G. Murray Bain, and also the 2nd prize in Class VII. instead of Mr. P. Jordan.

Yours faithfully,  
Geo. H. BARTELL WRIGHT.

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REBELLION APPREHENDED AMONG THE CHINESE.

(Before A. G. Wix, Esq.)

Monday, Jan. 26.

ALLEGED ROBBERY BY ARMED MEN.

Wong Mui, a widow, of 30 years of age, and Wong Atol, a servant, were charged, with others not in custody, with assaulting, robbing, the master of the *Shing Li* boat, Shau-ki-ki, and robbing him of about 4000 dollars.

Li Asing, the complainant, stated that at 4.30 p.m. on the 23rd inst., he was engaged in wrapping up some money in his shop when the master of the boat, Wong Atol, and two others, who were armed with a knife, with which he struck him on the chest and knocked him down. Three other men then came into the shop, one of whom was armed with a knife with which he struck him in the door, preventing him. Afterwards he was attacked by Wong Atol, who cut him to pieces and fled. Li Asing, the complainant, stated that at 4.30 p.m. on the 23rd inst., he was engaged in wrapping up some money in his shop when the master of the boat, Wong Atol, and two others, who were armed with a knife, with which he struck him on the chest and knocked him down. Three other men then came into the shop, one of whom was armed with a knife with which he struck him in the door, preventing him. Afterwards he was attacked by Wong Atol, who cut him to pieces and fled.

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## THE CHINA REVIEW.

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Intimations.

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as it was deemed of special importance that  
a weekly budget of news should be prepared,  
it was decided to issue it weekly. Sub-  
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Ports, and in the interior, who find the  
Overland edition a convenient form of news  
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NOTICE.

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